

*vociferus* (locality of collection given as a general 'South America'), I decided not to designate a neotype, especially because of the poorly defined locality of collection and therefore non evident interest of maintaining a particular taxonomic status.

**Lectotype of *Larus azarae* Bonaparte, 1857:** Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris, adult from Brazil donated by M. A. de Saint Hilaire and received in July 1820 (n° 795 of his catalogue), current registration n° 2001-78. As Bonaparte (1857) first cited Brazil as the type locality, this being the sole locality also cited by Lesson (1831), and as the largest part of the type series is at the MNHN, I designate the adult specimen from the MNHN as the lectotype of *azarae*.

**Neotype of *Larus verreauxi* Bonaparte, 1855 (1854):** Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris, n° 2001-79, adult male collected in Chile, donated to the MNHN in 1872 by Boucard (Coll. Reed).

**Neotype of *Dominicanus antipodus* Bruch, 1853:** Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris, n°1846-1233, adult collected in New Zealand, donated by M. Arnoux in 1846. The neotype was chosen from those specimens from New Zealand already present in the MNHN collections in 1846, thus certainly seen by Bruch during his visits to Paris.

#### **Junior synonyms of *dominicanus***

Birds from Patagonia, western South America, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia are best still regarded as belonging to nominate subspecies, though further work is needed to clarify their true taxonomic status. On current knowledge, and as long as there is no evidence of differences between birds from the east and west coasts of South America and from New Zealand, all names *azarae*, *verreauxi*, *vociferus* and *antipodus* should be considered junior synonyms of *dominicanus*.

## **Notes on the generic citation of the Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* (Steatornithidae)**

*by Nigel Cleere*

*Received 7 April 2001*

The Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* is a monotypic, neotropical species that was described by Alexander von Humboldt, who gave it a generic name in 1814 (von Humboldt 1814) and a specific name three years later (von Humboldt 1817a). The citation for the generic name *Steatornis* has long been given as 'Humboldt 1814, Voy. Intér. Am. 1, p. 416' (cf. Peters 1940), but this appears to be inaccurate and requires comment and correction.

Between 1799 and 1804, von Humboldt and the French botanist Aimé Bonpland travelled widely in South America and published the results of their travels in an immense work entitled '*Voyage aux régions équinoxiales du Nouveau Continent, fait en 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803 et 1804*'. This was accomplished through a series of livraisons and livres that were issued between 1805 and 1835, bound in 30 volumes to form six parts: Relation Historique, Zoologie, Essai Politique, Astronomie, Physique Générale and Botanie (Sherborn 1899, Löwenberg 1960).

The first description of the bird and its habits given by von Humboldt, appeared in part one, volume one of von Humboldt and Bonpland's work (von Humboldt 1814). The full title of this volume reads '*Voyage aux régions équinoxiales du Nouveau Continent, fait en 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803 et 1804, par Al. de Humboldt et A. Bonpland; rédigé par Alexandre de Humboldt. Avec deux atlas, qui renferment, l'un les vues des cordillères et les monumens des peuples indigènes de l'Amérique, et l'autre des cartes géographiques et physiques. Tome premier*', and is dated 1814. A second title page, reads '*Voyage de Humboldt et Bonpland. Première partie. Relation Historique. Tome premier*'. The Oilbird is discussed in Livre 3, Chapter 7, entitled '*Convent de Caripe. Cavern du Guacharo. Oiseaux nocturnes*', and the chapter covered pages 409 – 431. von Humboldt began his account of the Oilbird on page 416, and gave the generic name *Steatornis* in a reference to a monograph of the species that was to appear in a later volume. He continued, however, to refer to the species by its local name of Guacharo (a Castilian word meaning 'one who cries and laments'). He also stated that 'it forms a new genus that differs from *Caprimulgus* by the loudness of its calls, its strong beak with a double tooth and its feet that lack the membranes uniting the anterior phalanges of the claws'. The first of three footnotes to this page also listed features of the beak, rictal bristles, feet and claws as generic characters.

The nomenclature of this species then remained in limbo for three years, with only a generic name in place, but was eventually given the specific name *caripensis* by von Humboldt in a separate publication (von Humboldt 1817a). A monograph of the Oilbird then appeared in part two, volume two of the '*Voyage aux régions équinoxiales du Nouveau Continent*' (von Humboldt 1817b). The title page of this volume reads '*Recueil d'observations de zoologie et d'anatomie comparée, faites dans l'océan atlantique, dans l'intérieur du nouveau continent et dans la mer du sud pendant les années 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802 et 1803; par Al. de Humboldt et A. Bonpland. Deuxième volume.*' and is dated 1833. The monograph, written by von Humboldt, is entitled '*Mémoire sur le Guacharo de la Caverne de Caripe, nouveau genre d'oiseaux nocturnes de la famille des passereaux*', covered pages 139 – 144, and contained a full description of *Steatornis*. According to Sherborn (1899), this volume was issued in livraisons, and the Oilbird monograph formed part of livraison 10, which was actually published in 1817.

Subsequent authors generally quoted von Humboldt (1817b) when citing the genus *Steatornis* (e.g. Lesson 1843, Gray 1844, Bonaparte 1850), until Hartert (1892) strangely cited 'Humboldt 1810, *Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris* (3) 17, p. 295'. However, this work did not contain the generic name *Steatornis*. Sherborn (1922) also quoted von Humboldt (1817b), but listed the citation as '*Voy. Intér. Amér. (Obs. Zool. II. 1817), 141*'. Peters (1940) correctly cited von Humboldt (1814), but followed Sherborn's usage of the title '*Voy. Intér. Amér.*', and this was followed by modern authors such as Cleere (1998), but not Sibley & Monroe (1990), who cited von Humboldt (1817b). Thomas (1999) incorrectly stated in her introductory text that von Humboldt did not publish his account of his first encounter with the Oilbird until 1817, but then cited von Humboldt (1814) in the species account.

It seems clear that most of the early taxonomists only had access to von Humboldt (1817b), and the title of that work was abbreviated to 'Voy. Intér. Amér.' by Sherborn (1922) without explanation. The correct citation by modern authors, of von Humboldt (1814), can be traced back to Peters (1940), although the incorrect usage of 'Voy. Intér. Amér.' as the title of that work has continued, resulting in a strangely inaccurate citation for the genus *Steatornis*. Having examined copies of all of the literature mentioned above, I suggest that the correct citation for the genus *Steatornis* is as follows:

*Steatornis* von Humboldt 1814, In von Humboldt & Bonpland, *Voy. Nouv. Cont.* Pt. 1, Vol. 1, p. 416.

### Acknowledgements

For helping me locate the relevant literature, I am greatly indebted to Effie Warr at the Natural History Museum, Tring; Linda Birch at the Alexander Library, Edward Grey Institute, Oxford, and Christine Mason at the Bodlian Library, Oxford. I would also like to thank Rémy Bruckert at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris for checking additional copies of von Humboldt and Bonpland's work held in Paris.

### References

- Bonaparte, C.L. 1850. *Conspectus generum avium* Vol. 1. Lugduni Batavorum.
- Cleere, N. 1998. *Nightjars. A guide to nightjars and related nightbirds*. Pica Press, Sussex.
- Gray, G.R. 1844. *The genera of birds*, Vol. 1. Longman, Brown, Green & Longmans, London.
- Hartert, E. 1892. *Catalogue of the birds in the British Museum*, Vol. 16. British Museum, London.
- von Humboldt, F.H.A. 1814. In von Humboldt, F.H.A. & Bonpland, A.J.A. *Voyage aux régions équinoxiales du Nouveau Continent, fait en 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803 et 1804* Vol. 1. F. Schoell, Paris.
- von Humboldt, F.H.A. 1817a. Sur le *Steatornis*, nouveau genre d'oiseau nocturne. *Bull. Sci. Soc. Philom. Paris*, 51 – 52.
- von Humboldt, F.H.A. 1817b. In Humboldt, F.H.A. & Bonpland, A.J.A. *Recueil d'observations de zoologie et d'anatomie comparée* Vol. 2. J. Smith & Gide, Paris.
- Lesson, R.P. 1843. Index ornithologique. *L'écho du Monde Savant* 10, Pt. 1 (45), col. 1067 – 1068.
- Löwenberg, J. 1960. *Alexander von Humboldt. Bibliographische übersicht seiner werke, schriften und zerstreuten Abhandlungen*. F.A. Brockhaus Komm. – Gesch. GmbH. Abt. Antiquarium. Stuttgart.
- Peters, J.L. 1940. *Check-list of birds of the world*, Vol. 4. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge.
- Sherborn, C.D. 1899. A note on the date of the parts of 'Humboldt and Bonpland's Voyage: Observations de Zoologie'. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* 7<sup>th</sup> series, 3 (17) : 428.
- Sherborn, C.D. 1922. *Index Animalium*. Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History), London.
- Sibley, C.G. & Monroe, B.L. 1990. *Distribution and taxonomy of birds of the world*. Yale Univ. Press, New Haven.
- Thomas, B.T. 1999. Family Steatornithidae (Oilbirds). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. (eds) *Handbook of the birds of the world*, Vol. 5. Pp. 302 - 386. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Address : Nigel Cleere, 2 Hawthorn House, Roundfields, Upper Bucklebury, Berks. RG7 6RQ, U.K.